



Connecticut Parks Association, Inc.

www.ctparks.org

February 25, 2013

To the Members of Environment Committee

As the President of the CT Park Association, I would like to tell you that the Association has been active since 1958. Our purpose is to promote accession, development, maintenance and preservation of our natural resources throughout the state.

Our organization is made up of over 160 park professionals throughout the state. As the demands of the community to have the best and safest fields has risen over the years, many towns have assigned their park departments to the maintenance of school grounds, Towns have turned to their park departments because they have the highest caliber of staff training for proper turf management.

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed to SB 914 AAC The Application Of Pesticides At Municipal Parks.

We currently have a ban at K-8 schools that is flawed and is not based on research and science. It does not make sense to expand the current laws especially to all of our parks. Products used under the IPM guidelines have been studied and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Center of Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration, and our state's own Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). An ad hoc committee, formed with educators and scientists from the University of Connecticut, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and CT Public Health Department have agreed, in principle, which the current law on the ban of pesticides does not work.

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed to HB 6440 AAC Municipalities And The Application Of Lawn Care Pesticides.

Our association feels the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection sets the state-wide standard for pesticide application should remain in place. Unlike DEEP, Municipalities do not have the resources to develop their own policies and procedures based on science, education and research.

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed to SB 917 AA Authorizing the Use of Certain Microbial and Biochemical Pesticides and Grub Control Products on School Grounds.

In talking to our scientist we feel this bill needs to better define certain microbial and biochemical pesticides.

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed HB 6438 AA Restricting the Use of Methoprene and Resmethrin. We would like to recommend that our scientists from the University of Connecticut, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and CT Public Health Department provide data relevant to this bill.

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed SB 916 AA Authorizing Civil Penalties for the Faulty, Careless Or Negligent Application Of Pesticides. Current law already provides for fines, imprisonment and civil penalties various sections of the Connecticut General Statutes.

We, as a professional organization, rely on science and the research plan at universities throughout the country and our state to provide us with the scientific facts, as well as the DEEP. Our organization works with UConn, experimental center and the extension centers to provide us with the most updated research and techniques to be used in our profession.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Calarco CSFM, CPRA, AOLCP
President Ct Park Association